

## The Freedom Fighters

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## Press Release/Official Statement of Support to the FPC

Dear Fire and Police Commission, et al:

As the weekend approaches and statements have been released regarding the retirement of Chief Edward A. Flynn, we felt compelled as community-led advocates of the inner city, to issue our statement of support to your Commission. Many of the services that our organization offers to the community places us on the "front-lines" in the streets of the inner-city in Milwaukee, in various neighborhoods, which in turn places us in various police districts. We are often tasked with the responsibility of being first-responders, mediators, and health workers to the members of these communities. As a result of the aforementioned duties that we embrace, we regularly find ourselves having direct contact and interaction with officers of the Milwaukee Police Department, its leadership, and members of the community at large. Providing us with the unfortunate capacity to bear witness to many of the factors that contribute to the injurious relationship between the Milwaukee Police Department and the community, giving us a plain sight view of the impact that this toxic relationship has on the citizens of these communities.

This is why we, The Freedom Fighters understand the dire need for a commitment to a collaborative reform initiative from whom you appoint in the interim, as well as the candidate for successorship. This is also why we understand the importance of your authority to appoint his successorship be upheld, and that your selection process moves forward uninterrupted and absent of influence from political changes in the city or interference. Our organization agrees with the statement that your Commission made in your release; of the candidate possessing a "vision of a 21<sup>st</sup> century Milwaukee Police Department" and, having "earned the confidence and trust of the department members and the community at large". Lastly, like you we are committed to serving on behalf of the communities' best interest. So as you move forward and begin your selection process within the authority delegated to you to do so, please know that you have the support of The Freedom Fighters, and the community that we represent. We both uphold and hold you accountable for appointing leadership to a department who has brought a great darkness to our great city. The time for a brighter future is now!

Sincerely,

The Freedom Fighter Foundation

The Freedom Fighter Foundation is committed to the development of the African-American men, women, families and communities of the inner city of Milwaukee.

#CulturalLiberationThroughCulturalLove